

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

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PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /067 W

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R 031250Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5974

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 9556

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR KE

SUBJECT: SOVIET PARLDEL SALVAGES VISIT, SEES KENYATTA

REF: NAIROBI 9415

1. SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY PRESIDUM VICE CHAIRMAN DZOTSENIDZE LEFT KENYA OCTOBER 31 AFTER SEEING PRESIDENT KENYATTA, THEREBY ENABLING SOVIETS TO CLAIM A MODICUM OF SUCCESS FOR VISIT. KENYATTA ASSURED DZOTSENIDZE, AS HAD FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI EARLIER, THAT GOVERNMENT OF KENYA DISSOCIATED ITSELF FROM UNFRIENDLY PRESS TREATMENT ACCORDED HIM (REFTEL).

2. ALTHOUGH ONE NAIROBI DAILY BACKED AWAY FROM ITS CRITICISM OF SOVIETS WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER CHASTISED PRESS, LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY (THE NATION) REMAINED UNREPENTANT. IN AN EDITORIAL OCTOBER 29, IT HAD CALLED DZOTSENIDZE "IRASCIBLE" AND HAD COMMENTED PARENTHETICALLY

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THAT 75 PER CENT OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN NAIROBI WAS KGB. THE NEXT DAY, SAME PAPER CARRIED REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO SOVIET EMBASSY SPOKESMAN, WHO ALLEGEDLY ADMITTED SIX OF EMBASSY STAFF OF 30 WERE "CONNECTED WITH KGB

AFFAIRS" BUT REFUTED CLAIMS THAT 75 PER CENT WERE KGB AGENTS. "SINCE DIPLOMATIC MISSION REPRESENTS WISHES OF MOTHER COUNTRY, AND WE HAVE KGB BACK HOME, CERTAIN OFFICERS HERE REPRESENT KGB." NATION DELIVERED ITS FINAL PUNCH OCTOBER 31 WITH EDITORIAL LAMBASTING SOVIETS FOR FANNING FLAMES OF WAR IN ANGOLA.

3. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF DZOTSENIDZE TV INTERVIEW AS AT INSTIGATION OF SOVIET EMBASSY. NOT SATISFIED WITH WITHDRAWAL, EMBASSY INSISTED THAT INTERVIEW BE RE-DONE, WITH ONLY SAFE QUESTIOD PERMITTED. EVEN THIS EMASCULATED INTERVIEW, SHOWN ON THE EVE OF DZOTSENIDZE'S DEPARTURE, DREW TESTY RESPONSES FROM SOVIET VISITOR ON SUCH TOPICS AS SOVIET LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION GROUPS, LACK OF HELP FOR LDC'S SUFFERING FROM HIGH OIL PRICES AND EXCESSIVE SOVIET SPENDING ON NUCLEAR ARMS AND SPACE PROGRAM.

4. SIDE EFFECT OF DZOTSENIDZE'S IMBROGLIO WITH PRESS WAS LIVELY QUESTIONING IN PARLIAMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IN KENYA. SEVERAL KENYAN MP'S INDICATED SYMPATHY FOR DZOTSENIDZE, WHO THEY FELT WAS UNFAIRLY TREATED BY PRESS.

5. COMMENT: GOK EVIDENTLY WORKED HARD TO HELP SOVIETS OVERCOME PUBLIC RELATIONS FIASCO, AND VISIT MAY HAVE ACHIEVED PURPOSE OF IMPROVING SOVIETS' ENTREE HERE. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT DZOTSENIDZE WAS THE WRONG MAY TO PROMOTE WARM GLOW OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THIS UNABASHEDLY BOURGEOIS COUNTRY.
MARSHALL

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